# Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCH# 2017071020

### Volume 1

Chapters 1 through 10

#### **RB INYOKERN SOLAR PROJECT**

by R&L Capital, Inc. (PP16109)

Conditional Use Permit 23, Map #47; Conditional Use Permit 27, Map #47; and Inyokern Specific Plan Amendment 4, Map #47



Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department Bakersfield, California

SPA #4; CUP #23 & #27, Map #47 WO #PP16109 (EIR 02-17 - RB Inyokern Solar) I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABELS\e ir02-17rrc.ec.doc Sc 06/19/20

City of Arvin P.O. Box 548 Arvin, CA 93203 Bakersfield City Planning Dept 1715 Chester Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bakersfield City Public Works Dept 1501 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 California City Planning Dept 21000 Hacienda Blvd. California City, CA 93515 Delano City Planning Dept P.O. Box 3010 Delano, CA 93216

City of Maricopa P.O. Box 548 Maricopa, CA 93252 City of McFarland 401 West Kern Avenue McFarland, CA 93250 City of Ridgecrest 100 West California Avenue Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter 336 Pacific Avenue Shafter, CA 93263 City of Taft Planning & Building 209 East Kern Street Taft, CA 93268 City of Tehachapi Attn: John Schlosser 115 South Robinson Street Tehachapi, CA 93561-1722

City of Wasco 764 E Street Wasco, CA 93280 Inyo County Planning Dept P.O. Drawer "L" Independence, CA 93526 Kings County Planning Agency 1400 West Lacey Blvd, Bldg 6 Hanford, CA 93230

Los Angeles Co Reg Planning Dept 320 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 San Bernardino Co Planning Dept 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182 San Luis Obispo Co Planning Dept Planning and Building 976 Osos Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Santa Barbara Co Resource Mgt Dept 123 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Tulare County Planning & Dev Dept 5961 South Mooney Boulevard Visalia, CA 93291 Ventura County RMA Planning Div 800 South Victoria Avenue, L1740 Ventura, CA 93009-1740

U.S. Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office 300 South Richmond Road Ridgecrest, CA 93555 China Lake Naval Weapons Center Tim Fox, RLA - Comm Plans & Liaison 429 E Bowen, Building 981 Mail Stop 4001 China Lake, CA 93555 Edwards AFB, Mission Sustainability Liaison 412 TW, Bldg 2750, Ste 117-14 195 East Popson Avenue Edwards AFB, CA 93524

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Federal Communications Comm 18000 Studebaker Road, #660 Cerritos, CA 90701 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Suite 208 Palm Springs, CA 92262

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers State Air Resources Board U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division Stationary Resource Division P.O. Box 997 1325 "J" Street, #1350 P.O. Box 2815 Lake Isabella, CA 93240 Sacramento, CA 95814-2920 Sacramento, CA 95812 Caltrans/Dist 9 So. San Joaquin Valley Arch Info Ctr Caltrans/Dist 6 California State University of Bkfd Planning/Land Bank Bldg. Planning Department 9001 Stockdale Highway P.O. Box 12616 500 South Main Street Bakersfield, CA 93311 Fresno, CA 93778 Bishop, CA 93514 Caltrans/ State Clearinghouse State Dept of Conservation Division of Aeronautics, MS #40 Office of Planning and Research Director's Office 1400 - 10th Street, Room 222 801 "K" Street, MS 24-01 P.O. Box 942873 Sacramento, CA 95814 Sacramento, CA 94273-0001 Sacramento, CA 95814-3528 California Energy Commission State Dept of Conservation California State University James W. Reed, Jr. Geologic Energy Management Division Bakersfield - Library 1516 Ninth Street 4800 Stockdale Highway, Ste 108 9001 Stockdale Highway Mail Stop 17 Bakersfield, CA 93309 Bakersfield, CA 93309 Sacramento, CA 95814 California Highway Patrol California Fish & Wildlife Public Utilities Comm Energy Div Planning & Analysis Division 1234 East Shaw Avenue 505 Van Ness Avenue P.O. Box 942898 San Francisco, CA 94102 Fresno, CA 93710 Sacramento, CA 94298-0001 California Regional Water Quality State Dept of Water Resources **State Lands Commission** Control Board/Lahontan Region San Joaquin Dist. 100 Howe Avenue, Ste 100-South 15095 Amargosa Road - Bld 2, Suite 210 3374 East Shields Avenue, Room A-7 Sacramento, CA 95825-8202 Victorville, CA 92392 Fresno, CA 93726 Kern County Kern County Airports Department Kern County Administrative Officer Agriculture Department Kern County Public Works Department/ Kern County Public Works Department/ Kern County Building & Development/Floodplain Building & Development/Survey Env Health Services Department Kern County Fire Dept Kern County Fire Dept Kern County Library/Beale David Witt, Fire Chief Michael Nicholas, Fire Captain Local History Room Kern County Library

Ridgecrest Branch

131 East Las Flores Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Library/Beale

Andie Sullivan

Kern County Public Works Kern County Public Works Department/ Department/Operations & Kern County Sheriff's Dept Building & Development/Development Administration Maintenance/Regulatory Monitoring & Review Reporting Mojave Town Council Inyokern Municipal Advisory Council Kern County Public Works Department/ Bill Deaver, President 1429 Broadway Avenue Building & Development/Code P.O. Box 1418 P.O. Box 1113 Compliance Invokern, CA 93527 Mojave, CA 93502-1113 Kern County Superintendent of Schools KernCOG Sierra Sands Unified School Dist Attention School District Facility Services 113 Felspar 1401 19th Street - Suite 300 1300 - 17th Street Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Bakersfield, CA 93301 Bakersfield, CA 93301 Local Agency Formation Comm/LAFCO Indian Wells Valley Water Dist Kern County Water Agency 5300 Lennox Avenue, Suite 303 P.O. Box 1329 P.O. Box 58 Bakersfield, CA 93309 Ridgecrest, CA 93556 Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058 Inyokern Airport East Kern Air Pollution Kern County Parks & Recreation P.O. Box 634 Control District Inyokern, CA 93527 Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo Kern Audubon Society Los Angeles Audubon Attention: Janet M. Laurain Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman 926 Citrus Avenue 4124 Chardonnay Drive 601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000 Los Angeles, CA 90036-4929 South San Francisco, CA 94080 Bakersfield, CA 93306 Center on Race, Poverty Center on Race, Poverty Defenders of Wildlife/ & the Environment & the Environmental/ Kim Delfino, California Dir Attn: Marissa Alexander CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation 980 - 9th Street, Suite 1730 1012 Jefferson Street 1999 Harrison Street – Suite 650 Sacramento, CA 95814 San Francisco, CA 94612 Delano, CA 93215 Native American Heritage Council Pacific Gas & Electric Co of Kern County Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter Land Projects Attn: Gene Albitre P.O. Box 3357 650 "O" Street, First Floor 3401 Aslin Street Bakersfield, CA 93385 Fresno, CA 93760-0001 Bakersfield, CA 93312 Verizon California, Inc. Southern California Edison Chumash Council of Bakersfield Attention Engineering Department 2244 Walnut Grove, Ave, GO-1 Quad 2C 2421 "O" Street 520 South China Lake Boulevard Rosemead, CA 91770 Bakersfield, CA 93301-2441 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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Indian Wells Valley Airport Dist P.O. Box 634 Inyokern, CA 93527

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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Kelly Group Kate Kelly P.O. Box 868 Winters, CA 95694

Structure Cast Larry Turpin, Sales Mgr 8261 McCutchen Road Bakersfield, CA 93311

### DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

This is to advise that the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. As mandated by State law, the minimum public review period for this document is 45 days. The document and documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for review at the Planning Natural Resources Department, 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or on the Departmental website (<a href="https://kernplanning.com/environmental-doc/rb-inyokern-solar-project/">https://kernplanning.com/environmental-doc/rb-inyokern-solar-project/</a>).

A public hearing has been scheduled with the Kern County Planning Commission to receive comments on the document on: **September 10, 2020**, at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, First Floor, Kern County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California.

The comment period for this document closes on **August 17, 2020**. Testimony at future public hearings may be limited to those issues raised during the public review period either orally or submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. the day the comment period closes.

**Project Title:** RB Inyokern Solar Project by R&L Capital, LLC (PP16109); Conditional Use Permit No. 23, Map 47; Conditional Use Permit No. 27, Map 47; and Inyokern Specific Plan Amendment No. 4, Map 27 (Circulation).

**Project Location:** The project is located in the eastern high desert region of Kern County in the unincorporated community of Inyokern. The proposed project is located along United States Highway 395 (US 395) to the east and Brown Road to the west. Phase 1 is located north of Inyokern Road (State Route 178 [SR 178]), between Brown Road and US 395. Phase 2 is directly north and adjacent to Phase 1. The project site would be directly accessed by SR 178 to Brown Road. A wastewater treatment plant is located adjacent on the northeastern portion of the project site. The Inyokern Airport is located west of the project site. An existing 4.2 acre borrow pit is located on the southeast corner of the Phase 1 portion of the site, which was originally used to build a roadway overpass. The pit is fenced around its perimeter and would not be developed or disturbed during project construction activities and is not included as part of the project site footprint. The proposed solar facility can be found within Sections 19 and 20, Township 26 South, Range 39 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

**Project Description:** The project proponents are requesting: (a) Two (2) Conditional Use Permits (CUP), to allow for the construction and operation of a 26.6 MW solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility and battery energy storage (Section 19.38.030.G) in an M-2 Zone District (CUP 23, Map #47 and CUP 27, Map #47); and (b) Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Inyokern Specific Plan to remove a portion of the designated future secondary collector from Brown Road to the southern boundary of the project site (Specific Plan Amendment 4, Map #47). The project's permanent facilities would include the solar modules, energy storage systems, operations and maintenance building, switchyards, electrical collector system and inverters, gen-tie lines, telecommunication facilities and meteorological station, security fencing, and access roads.

**Anticipated Significant Impacts on Environment:** Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Hydrology, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire

Document can be viewed online at: https://kernplanning.com/environmental-doc/rb-invokern-solar-project/

For further information, please contact Ronelle Candia, Supervising Planner, at (661) 862-8997 or candiar@kerncounty.com.

LORELEI H. OVIATT, AICP, Director Planning and Natural Resources Department

To be published once only on <u>next available date and as soon as possible</u>

The Bakersfield Californian

Daily Independent

The News Review

RRC (6/20/2020)

c: County Clerk (2) (with fee) Environmental Status Board Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter LiUNA Lozeau Drury, LLP California Native Plant Society/Kern Chapter Kern County Archaeological Society Native American Heritage Pres. Council/Kern County Center on Race, Poverty and Environment (2) Supervisorial District No. 1

SPA #4; CUP #23 & 27, Map #47 (EIR 02-17 - RB Inyokern Solar) WO PP16109 I:\Planning\WORKGRPS\WP\LABELS\eir 02-17rrc.noa.docx Sc 06/19/20

352 502 01 00 8 DYE PATRICIA ANN TRUST 8033 DUNBARTON AV LOS ANGELES CA 90045

352 502 11 00 7 HEPPE BEN & ANGELA L 1925 BLACKBIRD ST INYOKERN CA 93527-2800

352 085 03 00 4 **DUP** INYOKERN SANITATION DIST ADDRESS UNKNOWN

SITE

**DUP** 

352 085 05 00 0 R&L CAPITAL INC PO BOX 907 TRONA CA 93592-0907

084 040 03 00 3 SARKOVICH TESS VICTORIA 1026 N CLIFFORD ST RIDGECREST CA 93555-7968

352 502 07 00 6 TURBETT DENNIS K & JENNIFER J 1948 ORIOLE ST INYOKERN CA 93527-2806

084 021 18 00 8 UNION PACIFIC R/R CO 1400 DOUGLAS ST # 1640 OMAHA NE 68179-1610

352 085 04 00 7 CLODT MARY ANN P O BOX 1090 INYOKERN CA 93527 352 086 09 00 9 CLODT MARY ANN LIV TR P O BOX 1090 INYOKERN CA 93527

084 040 02 00 0 EL SOLANA MOBILE HOME & RV PARK LLC 9220 CLARO DE LUNA DR BAKERSFIELD CA 93314-8553

352 085 14 00 6 INDIAN WELLS VALLEY AIRPORT DS 110 MAHAN ST RIDGECREST CA 93555

SITE/DUP

352 502 06 00 3 OLSEN BRENDA K 13288 TAWYA RD APPLE VALLEY CA 92308-6161

352 086 08 00 6 R&L CAPITAL INC P O BOX 907 TRONA CA 93562

084 010 42 00 7 SIMMONS RODNEY J 2262 NW WILARK DR SALEM OR 97304-1849

352 085 07 00 6

U S A 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

352 085 09 00 2 UNION PACIFIC R/R CO 1400 DOUGLAS ST # 1610 OMAHA NE 68179-1610

352 501 04 00 0 RODARTE LARRY J & KAREN B 1956 CAMBRIDGE WY SANTA MARIA CA 93454 352 086 04 00 4 CLODT RICHARD L & GERARDELL L FAMILY TRUST P O BOX 999 INYOKERN CA 93527

352 502 08 00 9 HALCOMB RALPH E & PAULINE L PO BOX 612 INYOKERN CA 93527-0612

352 085 12 00 0 INYOKERN COMMUNITY SERV DIST P O BOX 1418 INYOKERN CA 93527

084 010 43 00 0 **DUP**R & L CAPITAL INC
PO BOX 907
TRONA CA 93592-0907

SITE/DUP

352 086 08 00 6 R&L CAPITAL INC P O BOX 907 TRONA CA 93562

084 010 10 00 4 STATE OF CALIFORNIA P O BOX 847 BISHOP CA 93514

352 085 08 00 9 U S A 650 CAPITOL MALL SACRAMENTO CA 95814-4708

352 502 02 00 1 WITHERS BESS 3024 TREESDALE DR LAS VEGAS NV 89134-7407

#### **Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Project Title: RB Inyokern Solar Project by R&L Capital,	Inc.	
Lead Agency: Kern County Planning Department	Contact Person	: Ronelle Candia
Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100	Phone: (661)	
City: Bakersfield	Zip: 93301-2323 County: Kern	ι
Project Location: County: Kern	City/Nearest Community: Inyoke	
Cross Streets: United States Highway 395 (US 395) and State Ro		Zip Code: <u>93527</u>
Lat. / Long.: 35 39'30.20573" N / 117 48'40.50472" W	Total Acres: 166	<del></del>
Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple	Section: <u>19 &amp; 20</u> Twp.: <u>26S</u>	Range: 39E Base: MDB&N
Within 2 Miles:	State Hwy #: SR 178	Waterways: N/A
Airports: Inyokern Airport	Railways:	Schools: High School
Document Type:		
CEQA: NOP Draft EIR  Early Cons Supplement/Subsequ  Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.)  Mit Neg Dec Other	NEPA: NOI Lent EIR EA Draft EIS FONSI	Other:
Local Action Type:  ☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Develo	Rezone Prezone Use Permit	Annexation Redevelopment Coastal Permit
Community Plan Site Plan	Land Division (Subdivis	sion, etc.)
Development Type:  Residential: Units Acres Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Educational Recreational	☐ Transportation: Type ☐ Mining: Mineral ☐ Power: Type So ☐ Waste Treatment: Type ☐	MGD
Project Issues Discussed in Document:		
Aesthetic/Visual	Recreation/Parks Schools/Universities Septic Systems Sewer Capacity Soil Erosion/Compaction/Gradin Solid Waste Toxic/Hazardous Traffic/Circulation	<ul> <li>✓ Vegetation</li> <li>✓ Water Quality</li> <li>✓ Water Supply/Groundwater</li> <li>✓ Wetland/Riparian</li> <li>Mildlife</li> <li>✓ Growth Inducing</li> <li>✓ Land Use</li> <li>✓ Cumulative Effects</li> </ul>

**Project Description:** See Attached.

#### **Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S". S Air Resources Board Office of Emergency Services S Office of Historic Preservation Boating & Waterways, Department of Office of Public School Construction S California Highway Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ Parks & Recreation X CalFire S Caltrans District # 6 & 9 Pesticide Regulation, Department of S Caltrans Division of Aeronautics S Public Utilities Commission \_\_\_\_ Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) S Regional WQCB # Lahontan Central Valley Flood Protection Board Resources Agency Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy Coastal Commission Colorado River Board San Joaquin River Conservancy S Conservation, Department of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy \_\_\_\_ Corrections, Department of State Lands Commission \_\_\_\_\_ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants **Delta Protection Commission** Education, Department of SWRCB: Water Quality S Energy Commission SWRCB: Water Rights S Fish & Game Region # Fresno Tahoe Regional Planning Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Food & Agriculture, Department of X Toxic Substances Control, Department of Water Resources, Department of General Services, Department of \_\_\_\_ Health Services, Department of Housing & Community Development \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_ S Integrated Waste Management Board \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_ X Native American Heritage Commission \_\_\_\_\_\_ Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency) Starting Date \_ July 2, 2020 Ending Date \_ August 17, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ Lead Agency (Complete if applicable): Consulting Firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: /s/ Date: 7/2/2020

Ronelle Candia, Supervising Planner

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Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

**Project Description:** RB Inyokern Solar Project, by R&L Capital, Inc. (project proponent), is requesting the land use entitlements necessary to facilitate the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic power generating facility and associated facilities that would generate a combined total of approximately 26.6 megawatts (MW) of renewable electrical energy on approximately 166.5 acres of privately-owned land in unincorporated Kern County. Implementation of the project as proposed would include: **a**) Two (2) Conditional Use Permits (CUP), to allow for the construction and operation of a 26.6 MW solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility and battery energy storage (Section 19.38.030.G) in an M-2 Zone District (CUP 23, Map # 47 and CUP 27, Map # 47); and **b**) Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Inyokern Specific Plan to remove a portion of the designated future secondary collector from Brown Road to the southern boundary of the project site (Specific Plan Amendment 4, Map #47). The project's permanent facilities would include the solar modules, energy storage systems, operations and maintenance building, switchyards, electrical collector system and inverters, gentie lines, telecommunication facilities and meteorological station, security fencing, and access roads.

## Draft Environmental Impact Report

SCH# 2017071020

### Volume 1

Chapters 1 through 10

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by R&L Capital, Inc. (PP16109)

Conditional Use Permit 23, Map #47; Conditional Use Permit 27, Map #47; and Inyokern Specific Plan Amendment 4, Map #47



Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department Bakersfield, California